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District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INDICTMENT UNSEALED IN ILLEGAL FIREARMS PURCHASES

Three men arrested in Tucson, Ariz. remain in federal custody

TUCSON, Ariz.- A 28-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury here has been unsealed against Isaac Feerman-Rodriguez, 21, of Imperial Beach, Calif.; Noel Gomez-Araujo, 28, of Calexico, Calif.; and Rafael Alcantar-Banda, 22, of Tijuana, Mexico, charging them with Possession of Unregistered Firearms.

The three were arrested on March 29, 2006 in Tucson, Ariz., where they had traveled from California to purchase the firearms. The indictment, unsealed on May 12, 2006, alleges that the three were in possession of 26 unregistered firearms including fully automatic machine guns, as well as three hand grenades and a grenade launcher.

All three defendants have remained in custody since their arrests in March. Their trial is set for June 6, 2006 in front of U.S. District Court Judge Frank R. Zapata.

A conviction for each of the 28 counts of Possession of Unregistered Firearms carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Zapata will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the FBI and Tucson Police Department Tactical Unit.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0695 TUC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-084(Feerman-Rodriguez, et. al)

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